



The community at the Juneteenth Festival. Photo courtesy of Juneteenth website.

Juneteenth Oregon's 53rd Annual Parade

Dedicated to Preserving the History of Juneteenth

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming 2025 Juneteenth Oregon's 53rd Annual Parade and Festival, which will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2025, in Portland, Oregon. As a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving and amplifying the history and

legacy of Juneteenth, we are honored to continue the tradition founded by the late Clara Peoples, a beloved community leader who organized Oregon's first Juneteenth celebration in 1945.

Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth "Independence Day" or "Freedom Day," commemorates the day Union troops enforced the abolition of slavery and liberated enslaved African Americans in Texas on June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. This significant day marks the end of slavery in the United States and is celebrated annually to honor the struggle for freedom and equality.

Our Juneteenth Oregon celebrations kick off with The Clara Peoples Freedom

Trail Parade at 11am, featuring our 2025 Grand Marshal Pastor Dennis Payne II and First Lady Debra Ingram Payne of First AME Zion, along with community organizations. The parade will start at King Park (School), proceed South down MLK, and then West on N. Knott, ending at the festival location.

The festival will commence around 12:30pm, following the parade, and promises an array of festivities including live music and entertainment, art, food, educational booths, cultural exhibitions, community resources, and a children's play area. This year's festival, presented by the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and NECA IBEW and produced by PDX JAZZ, will feature performances by Ta-

hirah Memory, Kirk Green, Vursatyl, and Bridge City Soul.

We are excited to offer a variety of local vendors, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, raffle prizes, and a kid's area. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our sponsors: The Oregonian, Kaiser Permanente, Urban League of Portland, Moda Health, Providence Health Plan, CareOregon, Pride Northwest, Portland Trailblazers, Trimet, Pacific Power, Onpoint Credit Union, Arrow Sanitary Service, and The City of Portland.

We hope to see you there to celebrate this important day with us. Let's come together to honor the history and legacy of Juneteenth, and enjoy a day filled with joy, community, and culture.